

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed September 15, 2003, the Abstract of the disclosure was objected to, claims 11-14, 15-20, and 34 were rejected under 35 USC 101 because invention was directed to non-statutory subject matter, and claims 1-50 were rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Legall et al. (WO 98/43183). The foregoing objections and rejections are respectfully traversed.

In accordance with the foregoing, the Abstract and claims 1, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 21, 34, and 35-50 have been amended. New claims 51-56 have been added. Claims 1-56 are pending and under consideration.

Claims 36-47, 49, and 50 are amended for clarification, unrelated to patentability.

The Abstract is replaced by a new abstract, taking the Examiner's comments into consideration. Withdrawal of the objections to the abstract is respectfully requested.

Claims 11, 15, and 34 are amended to recite useful, tangible, and concrete results, and are thus statutory in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 101.

More particularly, claim 11 is amended to recite "a storage unit storing the locating information".

Claim 15 recites "a storage unit storing list of the data searched", "a sequence determining unit determining a sequence of reproducing the content data searched", and "a reproduction control unit controlling the reproduction of the content data in accordance with the reproducing sequence".

Claim 34 recites "storing list of the data searched", "determining a sequence of reproducing the content data searched", and "controlling the reproduction of the content data in accordance with the reproducing sequence".

Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 11-14, 15-20, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. 101 is respectfully requested.

Legall discusses an integrated search of electronic program guide, internet, and other information resources. The abstract of Legall discusses a terminal to filter an element used to search. The description of lines 14-21 of page 2 of Legall is "The use can then display available web site and/or an electronic program guide (EPG) containing program information that meets the search criteria." In addition, line 10 on page 2 of Legall discusses "the search tool is used for searching broadcast information and Internet information using a single user-initiated search."

Legall does not discuss or suggest the features of the present invention recited in independent claims 1, 11, 15, 21, 30, 34, 35, 44, 48, and 51-56.

More particularly, Legall does not discuss or suggest (using the recitation of claim 1 as an example) "judges whether or not the data located by the locating information comes under a predetermined category based on a character string included in a data file including the data", as recited in independent claims 21, 34, and 48.

In addition, Legall does not discuss or suggest (using the recitation of claim 11 as an example) "requesting a server on a network to collect pieces of locating information", as recited in independent claims 11, 30, and 44.

Moreover, Legall does not discuss or suggest (using the recitation of claim 15 as an example) "searching content data corresponding to predetermined conditions based on a character string included in a data file including the content data on the network" as recited in independent claims 1, 15, and 35.

In addition, newly-added claims 51-56 correspond to claims 1, 11, 21, 34, 35, and 48, but newly-added claims 51-56 recite the feature of "a character string included in a file name of a data file including the data" instead of "a character string included in a data file including the data".

Further, dependent claims 2-10, 12-14, 16-20, 22-29, 31-33, 36-43, 45-47, 49, and 50 recite patentably distinguishing features of their own. For example, claim 2/1 recites "wherein said control unit searches the locating information retained in other information processing system on the network".

Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-50 and allowance of new claims 51-56 is respectfully requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

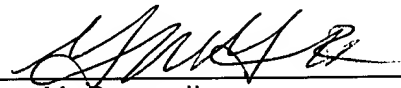
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If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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